

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-25. (cancelled)

26. (currently amended) A method for preparing a metal chelate selected from the metal chelate of general formula (I):



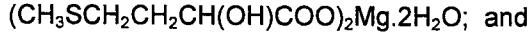
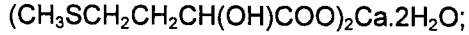
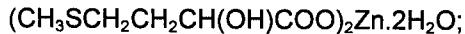
wherein:



M is a bivalent metal cation selected from the group consisting of: Mg, Ca, Mn, Co, Cu, Zn and Fe, and n is between 0 and 6,

said method comprising a step in which there is a direct reaction between a metal (II) oxide of M and  $\text{CH}_3\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{COOH}$  and/or salts thereof (metal(II)oxides and MHA and/or its salts in water.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein the metal chelate is selected from the group consisting of:



28-29. (cancelled)

30. (currently amended) A method for preparing a metal chelate of formula

$(\text{CH}_3\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{COO})_2\text{Fe} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  comprising a step in which there is a direct reaction between an alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal salt of methionine hydroxy analogue is reacted with and a soluble iron (II) salt in water.

31. (previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said alkali metal salt is a sodium salt of methionine hydroxy analogue and said soluble iron (II) salt is a ferrous sulfate.

32. (previously presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein said iron (II) chelate obtained from the reaction is filtered and washed with water.

33. (previously presented) A composition comprising water and at least one complex of general formula [Methionine Hydroxy Analogue:M(III)] wherein:  
M(III) is selected from iron (III) or chrome (III) and  
said at least one complex has a molar ratio between Methionine Hydroxy Analogue and M(III) equal or bigger than 2.

34. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 33, wherein the metal complex is [Methionine Hydroxy Analogue:Fe(III)].

35. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 33, wherein the metal complex is [Methionine Hydroxy Analogue:Cr(III)].

36. (previously presented) A method for preparing an integrator comprising a step of combining a metal chelate according to claim 26 with at least one complex according to claim 33.

37. (previously presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein the integrator is administered to human beings or animals suffering from a deficiency of metal oligoelements such as Fe and Cr.

38. (previously presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the integrator is administered to human beings or monogastric or polygastric animals.

39. (currently amended) A method of treating a human being or an animal suffering from a deficiency of Fe comprising a step of treating said human being or animal with an integrator comprising a metal chelate according to claim [[30]] 33.